

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing seamless connectivity and communication in a multi-band, multi-protocol network, the method comprising:

initially authenticating an access device upon said access device initiating communication with a first access point;

providing authentication information related to said initial authentication to at least one of a second access point and a third access point; and

servicing said access device by one of said first access point, said second access point and said third access point based on said initial authentication.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing said initial authentication information.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising retrieving said stored initial authentication information by said second access point and said third access point.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said retrieving further comprises retrieving said initial authentication information by said second access point when said access device migrates from a first coverage area associated with said first access point to a second coverage area associated with said second access point.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said retrieving further comprises retrieving said initial authentication information by said third access point when said access device migrates from one of said first coverage area and said second coverage area to a third coverage area associated with said third access point.

6. The method according to claim 3, wherein said retrieving further comprises retrieving said initial authentication information upon said access device initiating communication with said second access point.

7. The method according to claim 3, wherein said retrieving further comprises retrieving said initial authentication information upon said access device initiating communication with said third access point.

8. The method according to claim 1, further comprising distributing said initial authentication information to said second access point and said third access point upon said initial authenticating.

9. The method according to claim 5, further comprising transparently transferring said initial authentication information to said second access point during a handoff of said access device from said first access point to said second access point.

10. The method according to claim 5, further comprising transparently transferring said initial authentication information to said third access point during a

handoff of said access device from one of said first access point and said second access point to said third access point.

11. A machine-readable storage, having stored thereon, a computer program having at least one code section for providing seamless connectivity and communication in a multi-band multi-protocol hybrid wired/wireless network, the at least one code section being executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform steps comprising:

initially authenticating an access device upon said access device initiating communication with a first access point;

providing authentication information related to said initial authentication to at least one of a second access point and a third access point; and

servicing said access device by one of said first access point, said second access point and said third access point based on said initial authentication.

12. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for storing said initial authentication information.

13. The machine-readable storage according to claim 12, further comprising code for retrieving said stored initial authentication information by said second access point and said third access point.

14. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, wherein said code for retrieving further comprises code for retrieving said initial authentication information by said second access point when said access device migrates from a first coverage area associated with said first access point to a second coverage area associated with said second access point.

15. The machine-readable storage according to claim 14, further comprising code for retrieving said initial authentication information by said third access point when said access device migrates from one of said first coverage area and said second coverage area to a third coverage area associated with said third access point.

16. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, further comprising code for retrieving said initial authentication information upon said access device initiating communication with said second access point.

17. The machine-readable storage according to claim 13, further comprising code for retrieving said initial authentication information upon said access device initiating communication with said third access point.

18. The machine-readable storage according to claim 11, further comprising code for distributing said initial authentication information to said second access point and said third access point upon said initial authenticating.

19. The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, further comprising code for transparently transferring said initial authentication information to said second access point during a handoff of said access device from said first access point to said second access point.

20. The machine-readable storage according to claim 15, further comprising code for transparently transferring said initial authentication information to said third access point during a handoff of said access device from one of said first access point and said second access point to said third access point.

21. A system for providing seamless connectivity and communication in a multi-band, multi-protocol network, the system comprising:

at least one processor for initially authenticating an access device upon said access device initiating communication with a first access point;

said at least one processor for providing authentication information related to said initial authentication to at least one of a second access point and a third access point; and

said one of said first access point, said second access point and said third access point providing service to said access device based on said initial authentication..

22. The system according to claim 21, further comprising at least one memory for storing said initial authentication information.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to retrieve said stored initial authentication information by said second access point and said third access point.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to retrieve said initial authentication information by said second access point when said access device migrates from a first coverage area associated with said first access point to a second coverage area associated with said second access point.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to retrieve said initial authentication information by said third access point when said access device migrates from one of said first coverage area and said second coverage area to a third coverage area associated with said third access point.

26. The system according to claim 23, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to retrieve said initial authentication information upon said access device initiating communication with said second access point.

27. The system according to claim 23, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to retrieve said initial authentication information upon said access device initiating communication with said third access point.

28. The system according to claim 21, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to distribute said initial authentication information to said second access point and said third access point upon said initial authenticating.

29. The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to transparently transfer said initial authentication information to said second access point during a handoff of said access device from said first access point to said second access point.

30. The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one processor is adapted to transfer said initial authentication information to said third access point during a handoff of said access device from one of said first access point and said second access point to said third access point.

31. The system according to claim 25, wherein said at least one processor is an authentication processor, a switch processor, an access point processor and a server processor.